

COUNTY OF MORRIS
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

P.O. Box 900
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MENTAL HEALTH ADDICTION SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (MHASAB)

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 5:15 pm via In-Person/Webex Meeting

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Attendance

Mr. Chris Chernick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm. A quorum was established, and attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Andrew Agliata, Citizen Representative
Caroline Bailey, Morris County Prevention is Key
Freddie Bicknese, Citizen Representative
Chris Chernick, Citizen Representative – Chair
Linda Csengeto, Citizen Representative
Cheryl Garodnick, Therapy Resources of Morris County – Vice-Chair
Julian Hill, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Lorena Inestroza, New Pathway Counseling
Alton Robinson, Community Recovery Center of Morris County
Meg Rodriquez, Morris County Prosecutor's Office
LaJuan Tucker, Esq., Morris County Prosecutor's Office
Barbara Ward, Citizen Representative
Chelsea Whiting, Morris County Sheriff's Office

Board Liaisons:

Eileen Alexander, NJ DHS Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Michelle Borden, NewBridge Services
Carmine Deo, Community Hope

Others in Attendance:

Arielle Aigotti, Morris County Prevention is Key
Rose Brown, Mental Health Association
Patrice Reilly, Morris County Prevention is Key

Morris County Staff:

Amy Archer, Morris County Human Services
Kasey Errico, Morris County Director of Human Services
Anna Marie Hess, Morris County Human Services
Stephen Nebesni, Morris County Juvenile Detention Center
Rosallyn Suarez, Morris County Human Services

II. Approval of May 12, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Chernick, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the May 12th meeting minutes distributed before the meeting. Ms. Csengeto made the motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no abstentions and no opposition. Motion passed.

III. Chair Report

Mr. Chernick acknowledged an email sent by the Division of Community and Behavioral Services; In light of the recent tragedies at the Supermarket in Buffalo, NY, and the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the impact this has on our Community. Whether the recent tragedies impacted us mentally, physically, and/or emotionally, we must be mindful that acknowledging our reactions and caring for ourselves is essential in the healing process. While we are still dealing with a global pandemic, the recent incidents continue to bring increased feelings of anxiety, fear, and stress. Below are some resources that can be shared with all:

- Warmlines/Helplines:
 - 2nd Floor Youth Helpline – 888.222.2228 (call or text)
<https://www.2ndfloor.org/> - a message board is available on the site
 - Crisis Text Line – Text HOME to 741741 <https://www.crisistextline.org/> - can also use WhatsApp
 - MHA's Peer to Peer Support Line – 1.877.760.4987 or 1.866.445.3902 or 1.800.381.2059
 - SAMHSA National Helpline – 1.800.662.HELP (4357) Can also text 435748 (HELP4U)
 - NJ Mental Health Cares – 866.202.HELP (4357)
 - NJ Hopeline Network – 1.855.654.6735
 - Can also text njhopeline@ubhc.rutgers.edu <https://njhopeline.com/> - also has a chat feature
 - Teen Line – 800.852.8336 or text TEEN to 839863
- In addition to the warmlines/helplines, please see below:
 - St. Clare's Wellness and Recovery Center for those needing urgent mental health care - <https://www.saintclares.com/our-services/behavioral-health-services/wellness-and-recovery-center/> - 973.625.0096
 - Mental Health Association can be reached at 973.334.3496
- Please get in touch with the staff below for referrals to Morris County Providers:
 - Amy Archer, Mental Health Administrator – aarcher@co.morris.nj.us – 973.285.6852

- Jessica Mondino, Youth Services Coordinator - jmondino@co.morris.nj.us – 973.285.6850
- Rosalyn Suarez, Addictions Coordinator, rosuarez@co.morris.nj.us – 973.285.6867

Mr. Chernick announced that we are approaching the funding session. The funding review subcommittee will be called upon to review the applications, provide recommendations, and present the recommendations to the MHASAB for approval. In addition, the entire MHASAB will be asked to do site monitoring; details to follow.

- IV. **Presentation - Escape the Vape** – Ms. Patrice Reilly & Ms. Arielle Aigotti, Morris County Prevention is Key – PowerPoint presentation will be sent separately
- V. **State Liaison Report:**
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services – Ms. Eileen Alexander

Request for Proposal

This Request for Proposal is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to develop a county-based mental health pilot program for justice-involved defendants who are subject to the Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Act and identified with a severe mental illness. A severe mental illness (SMI) is a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that causes severe functional impairment that has substantially interfered with or limited one or more major life activities (within the past year) of an individual 18 years old or over. Diagnoses typically indicate SMI include Schizophrenia, major depression, and bipolar disorder. Still, PTSD, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and panic disorder are often included when it results in severe functional impairment. The counties targeted for this RFP are Camden, Middlesex, and Essex. The program will consist of collaboration with local social service organizations, the county jail, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)/Judiciary county-specific staff, including judges, the pretrial services units, criminal division offices, and probation division offices, the County Prosecutor's Office, the local Public Defender's Office, and private defense attorneys.

Total annualized funding is up to \$1.25M, subject to State appropriations. DMHAS anticipates making at least one award.

This voluntary mental health diversion program aims to support and connect individuals on pretrial monitoring to critical mental health, co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder (COD) treatment, housing, medical, and other essential social services. Individuals in the target population who voluntarily engage with the behavioral health team described in this RFP shall receive social determinants of health (SDOH) mental health screen.

The following summarizes the RFP schedule:

June 16, 2022, Request for unique log-in credentials due - no later than 4:00 p.m.

June 24, 2022, Deadline for receiving proposals - no later than 4:00 p.m.

July 27, 2022, Preliminary award announcement

August 3, 2022, Appeal deadline - no later than 4:00 p.m.

*August 10, 2022, Final award announcement
September 1, 2022, the Anticipated contract start date*

LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) Program

A pilot program was developed with the community and law enforcement to address low-level crimes for constituents suffering from mental illness and/or substance use—a \$6 million grant for two years ending by Sept. 2024. DMHAS is looking to identify six sites to award. Although the sites have yet to be determined, the Division plans to award any of the following municipalities: Warren, Irvington, Elizabeth, Brick, New Brunswick, Winslow, Perth Amboy, Jersey City, and Bayonne.

Request for Proposals Final Award-Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)

EISS programs provide rapid access to short-term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention services. EISS serves persons 18 years of age or older who are experiencing exacerbated symptoms of a mental illness. Services include assessment, psychiatric evaluation, pharmacologic interventions, short-term counseling and psychotherapy, psychoeducation, time-limited case management, referral, and linkage. EISS has routine “after-office” hours (e.g., weekends), accommodates “walk-ins,” and offers quick access to staff with psychiatric prescriber privileges when needed.

DMHAS is in the process of sending final post-negotiation award letters for EISS. DMHAS anticipates a July start date for most counties pending licensure.

- *Catholic Charities – Burlington County*
- *Bridgeway – Union County*
- *Rutgers UBHC – Hunterdon and Somerset Counties*
- *Acenda – Cape May and Gloucester Counties*
- *Health Care Commons Inc. – Salem*
- *St. Clare’s – Warren County*
- *CBH Care – Passaic County*
- *MHA Essex and Morris – Sussex County*

Medicaid and NJMHAPP Changes

There is a Medicaid newsletter forthcoming, and it will announce that billing for partial telehealth care will stop effective 08.15.2022. DMHAS is trying to align with Medicaid; DMHAS will stop NJMHAPP billing as of July 1, 2022 (*as it is close to 08.15*)

Announcements

Naloxone kits will be distributed to all law enforcement departments statewide. Departments will be able to replenish as needed. DMHAS also plans to make Naloxone kits available to libraries and shelters. DMHAS IT is developing a portal to ensure that authorized entities obtain kits.

DMHAS anticipates 988 starting in July, and stakeholders are encouraged to email questions to 988Questions@dhs.nj.gov.

The next DMHAS Quarterly Provider Zoom Webinar is scheduled for June 9th at 10:00 am. The agenda will follow. Please get in touch with Alicia.Meyer@dhs.nj.gov for the registration link.



Co-Occurring No Cost Virtual Trainings

- Intended to help practitioners sharpen their knowledge & skills related to key co-occurring topics
- Open to all workers, including those who participated in the Co-Occurring Disorders Learning Community

All virtual courses are from 12 pm to 2 pm Eastern Time.

Wednesday, June 8

Suicide Assessment in Individuals with COD

Wednesday, June 15

Stages of Change and Motivational Interviewing

Wednesday, June 22

Overview of Co-Occurring Disorders

Tuesday, June 28

Screening and Assessment of CODs

Email Leonard.Estrada@Rutgers.edu for more information and the registration link. *Sponsored by NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services*

VI. Staff Reports

Municipal Alliance Coordinator – Mr. Steve Nebesni

We are closing out the Fiscal Year 2022.

We are collecting the final application paperwork for the Fiscal Year 2023, with anticipated approval in July.

Addiction Services Coordinator – Ms. Rosalyn Suarez

The next Stigma Free meeting is Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 2:30 pm via Zoom.

The State is allowing counties to conduct virtual site monitoring this year. Notification for sign-ups will be sent to the MHASAB soon.

Mental Health Administrator – Ms. Amy Archer

Participation during the site monitoring meetings is an excellent way to gain insight into the programs and providers funded through the MHASAB. This also allows you to ask questions about the programs and stay up-to-date on new initiatives, programs, etc.

After our last MHASAB meeting, a few new members attended in person. They had questions regarding what the group was about, the intent of our subcommittees, and our role in the community. These subjects were covered during our orientation meeting held in February. We will look into having another orientation meeting shortly for our new members and all who would like to give some insight on our work throughout the year.

Our Human Services Advisory Council has been hearing from some providers about how recent acts of violence have impacted their staff and clients. So, they are putting together a task force to gather resources and training available in Morris County. Additional information will follow.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Funding – moved to the end of the meeting for closed session voting.

Planning – Ms. Amy Archer

The subcommittee held a meeting a few weeks ago, but there was only one attendee. Unfortunately, not a lot of planning took place. A discussion about the annual Over Dose Awareness Day held on August 31 took place. An email will be sent out to the nine members of this subcommittee to get a date to discuss and organize this event.

Legislative/Advocacy – Mr. Freddie Bicknese

We will be looking closer into the Vaping issues in Morris County regarding advocacy and education.

County Alliance Steering Subcommittee (CASS) – no report

VIII. Joint PAC Report – Mr. Carmine Deo
Met on Friday, June 3, 2022.

There are 84 Morris County residents currently at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital.

DCPP reported 26 new referrals to their agency.

Beth Rogers and Mark Ortega from Workforce Development Board have been updating the group on available training and employment incentive opportunities. Ms. Rogers and Mr. Ortega will be invited to future PAC meetings.

Our next meeting is Friday, July 1, 2022.

IX. HSAC Report – Ms. Linda Csengeto
Division of Developmental Disabilities - There is no representation at this meeting as the current representative is retiring. Ms. Archer requested another representative from DDD attend.

NJ DCF – DCF provided a handout showing their statistics for the month.

Staff Reports –

Ms. Amy Archer discussed that the Human Services funding cycle is coming up.

Ms. Archer and Ms. Fodali discussed HSAC GIA funds Homeless Solutions warming center, but they could not open because of ongoing construction. Therefore, there will be an overnight center using the Emergency Shelter Model from May 2, 2022, until September 5, 2022, regardless of the weather. There will be 14 beds for single individuals located at Homeless Solutions. There is no limit to the number of nights an individual can stay at the overnight center, and they will be case managed by staff at MCOTA. Navigating Hope will visit the overnight center to offer services.

Council on Aging Disabilities & Veterans – Small businesses can apply for a grant. Find details at morriscountysmallbusinessgrant.com.

MAPS now offers trips to grocery shops, pharmacies, banks, and personal care (such as hairdressers). Note: MAPS vehicles do not wait for individuals at the destination. Return trips must be booked a minimum of thirty minutes after initial drop-off.

Workforce Development Board – Ms. Jane Armstrong reported that the work requirements for welfare clients were waived due to COVID, so they have not had much activity.

Childcare update – Ms. Rebecca Sherrod reported that there have been 22 childcare centers permanently closed since March 2020 and that the total number of registered FCC Providers as of March 2022 is 34. In addition, grants are available for capital improvements up to \$250,000.

Planning Update – Jeff Bashe is the Chair of the planning subcommittee. Mr. Bashe reported that staff at agencies say issues with anger, frustration, anxiety, and depression are impacting clients. A task force was formed; Joanne Bjornson, Terry Connolly, and Joe Pawelczyk will work on researching these issues and gathering resources to assist.

Legislative Update – There was further discussion on the HTF. Benefits of the HTF were discussed, such as creating a tax-free public source of funding every year that can be used to address homelessness.

Morris, Sussex, Warren HIV Advisory – Mr. Robert Armstrong reported the new location for EDGE at the old SAAB dealership in Denville. They are moving from the current Executive Drive location.

Robert Armstrong, a member of HSAC, will speak about his experiences living with AIDS, The Psycho-Social Context of HIV/AIDS, the End of the HIV Epidemic Initiative, and provide HIV resources in an online Forum with the NJ Health Collaborative on June 22nd at 11 am to Noon. The NJHC Forum is free, and registration is needed.

Advisory Committee on Women – Their guest speaker was Ms. Laura O-Reilly-Stanzilis, RN, MSM.

Continuum of Care (CoC) – Mr. Saltzman's report states that the CoC has filed a Notice of Intent for funding. See the Morris County website for more information on the CoC.

X. Old Business

Ms. Archer stated that the MHASAB Resource Brochure is still being updated and, once completed, will be distributed.

XI. New Business

Ms. Suarez stated the Opiate Taskforce and CCSHM will be holding their first combined meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 10:00 am via Zoom. Also, Morris County Prevention is Key will host its first National Pride event on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 3:30 pm in Rockaway.

XII. Open to the Public – no comment

XIII. Closed Session – Tabled until the next meeting, a quorum could not be established

XIV. Adjourn
Mr. Chernick adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Hess
Clerk II